

**Governor's Family Violence Council**  
**Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services**  
**Wednesday, July 8, 2020**  
**10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Participating Members:**

Jeanne Yeager, Chair  
Dorothy Lennig, Esq., Vice-Chair  
Lillian Agbeyegbe  
Molli Cole for Delegate Haven Shoemaker  
Debbie Feinstein, Esq.  
V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.  
Lt. Diane Hansen for Superintendent Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III  
Senator Susan Lee  
John McGinnis for Secretary Karen Salmon  
Marcia Morris for Secretary Lourdes Padilla  
Lisa Nitsch  
Scott Patterson, Esq.  
Manuel Ruiz  
Stacey Rice, Esq.  
Laure Ruth, Esq.  
David Shultie  
Neshanna Turner  
Anne Weatherholt  
Senator Christopher West  
David Wolinski for Secretary Robert Green

**Guests:**

Lisae Jordan, Esq. Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Sarah Kaiser, Family Crisis Resource Center  
Michael Lore, Maryland General Assembly  
Jennifer Pollitt-Hill, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

**Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Staff:**

Mary Abraham  
Rebecca Allyn  
Heather Amador  
David Blum  
Barbara Darley  
Kimberly Herndon  
Robyne McCullough  
Michele Miller  
Justice Schisler

## **I. Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:01 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Ms. Allyn announced there are two new Council members. Stacey Rice, Esq. has been appointed to the Council as an interest member and Marcia Morris is the current representative for the Department of Human Services. There are a few members' terms that expired 6/30/20 and Ms. Allyn will be contacting those members about reappointment.

## **II. Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Updates**

Mr. Fueston shared that the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services has amended a large focus to the coronavirus pandemic and addressing the changing needs of programs.

Mr. Fueston shared that the Office's strategy for the third year continuation Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) awards for FY 21, beginning 10/1/20, is to allow current VOCA sub-recipients to receive funding in the amount of their FY 20 VOCA personnel line items, including fringe benefits and contractual positions, plus an additional 10 percent. This strategy will leave approximately \$5 million in "savings." In order to obtain feedback from providers on how to utilize the unallocated VOCA funds, the Office will hold four listening sessions on July 9. A VOCA chart will be shared with sub-recipients and victim service providers to assist provider's recommendations for the unallocated VOCA funds. The chart will outline VOCA spending and savings from federal fiscal year 2010 to 2020, including projections. The options the Office is currently considering are to utilize the funds to offset future reductions in order to maintain consistency and continuity of crime victim services in Maryland, or to release the funds competitively to all victim service providers in Maryland, including those who have not had the opportunity to access VOCA funding through the VOCA Notice of Funding Availability since 2018.

The National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators hosted an Education and Advocacy Webinar which provided an overview on opportunities for states to engage their Congressional partners in messaging to support the Crime Victims Fund. The webinar can be found at <https://navaa.org/resources/voca-resources/>.

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the January 2020 Council meeting were provided to members and guests. Ms. Feinstein made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. McGinnis seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes were approved.

## **IV. Workgroup Updates**

### *a. Intimate Partner Violence and Pregnancy*

A meeting will be scheduled soon for members to review the topics and priorities discussed at the first meeting in order to choose a direction for the workgroup.

### *b. Fingerprinting in Domestic Violence Cases*

The Workgroup submitted additional questions about the data received from the court to the Criminal Justice Information System for clarification.

*c. Abuse Intervention Program (AIP) Certification Review Process*

The workgroup is addressing what should be included in guidance for letters of support or memorandum of understanding (MOUs) between abuse intervention programs and domestic violence programs. Council members discussed that the workgroup should discuss how certification and training will look for the next year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

As all three workgroups have open tasks, Ms. Allyn recommended that the three workgroups be continued for the next year. All members were in favor. Members were reminded they are required to participate in at least one workgroup.

## **V. Abuse Intervention Programs**

Ms. Allyn informed members that eight abuse intervention program (AIP) site visits were conducted from January to March 2020. Site visits occur anytime within an AIP's three-year certification period. All eight programs were in compliance with the Governor's Family Violence Council's Operational Guidelines for AIPs in Maryland. Letters will be sent to each program confirming compliance.

Ms. Allyn informed members that five AIP applications were submitted to the Council for certification. Of those five, three were programs applying for recertification and two were new programs applying for certification. Ms. Allyn shared a document with Council members outlining certification recommendations. Program applications receiving a score of 90 or above will be asked to provide additional information for certification, whereas programs receiving a score of 89 or below are not recommended for certification. Three programs received a score above 93, and two programs received a score below 85, and therefore are not being recommended for certification.

Ms. Abgeyegbe made a motion to approve the AIP certification recommendations; Ms. Nitsch seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the recommendations were approved. Ms. Allyn will contact the three programs for additional information and send out notice to the remaining applicants of certification status.

## **VI. Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Discussion**

Council members shared they were not in a position to comment on the recommendations for VOCA savings until they had a chance to review the VOCA chart.

## **VII. Old/New Business**

Ms. Allyn announced that the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services has called upon the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to review and make any suggestions to the scripting for VINE (Victim Information Notification Everyday) notifications. Ms. Allyn informed Council members to contact her if they would like to assist with reviewing.

Ms. Pollitt-Hill, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, shared that the MNADV Statewide Domestic Violence Conference will be hosted virtually on August 26. The MNADV IPV training is being adapted to an online format. Ms. Nitsch, House of Ruth Maryland, shared that their new staff hire advocate training has also moved to an online format.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:05 a.m.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.